

KURGVEL, Aleks

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

NOTE: All the information given on this sheet pertains to my present employment.

Attachment to Section I, subdivisions 18 and 19.  
An addition to the information given on form 444 itself.

18. In addition to "a" and "b" mentioned on form 444:

- c) GIORDANO, Mario E.
- d) KUNSTMANN, Alexander.
- e) CLAYTON, Alex.
- f) CARLSON, Alex.
- g) KERRON, Alex.
- h) may be some more, used for very short times and since fully forgotten.
- i) KUSEL, Alexander.

19. In addition to "a" and "b" mentioned on form 444:

- c) A given contract name, used by me since March 1953, up to date. The employer used this name in connection with my employment and work before the above indicated date, when I used it for the first time, as I can recollect.
- d) A cover name used in Germany between Sep 1951 and Feb 1953 on a very few occasions.
- e) through h) Cover names used in connection with job assignments in the United States at different times between March 1953 and October 1960.
- i) The only name used when on TDY in Jordan, from Sep 1958 to Mar 1959, as a citizen of Costa Rica, with due documentation. The same name, when used as shown under "b" on form 444, was a simple cover name, with no contact to Costa Rica or any other specified country.

*Aleks Kurgvel*  
Aleks KURGVEL,  
January 1964.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE'S METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

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PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Attachment to Section V, subdivisions 2, 3, and 4.

2.

Estonian: Native tongue, and official language of the country during most of my schooling.  
Formal study from 2nd through 5th school years at a rate of two hours per week (from here on: h.p.w.).  
From 7th through 11th years three to six h.p.w.. In the Mil. Academy, and in the Advanced College of War, one to two h.p.w.

Russian: From 2nd through 6th school years most of the subjects were taught in Russian. Later, in Gymnasium, one to two hours p.w. for 4 years.  
Fluent knowledge of Russian was a prerequisite at the admission to the Mil. Academy, and to the Advanced College of War.

German: During my 7th year at school all subjects were taught in German. Later, in the Estonian Gymnasium, and in the Mil. Academy ( 6 years ), one to two h.p.w..  
German was also a prerequisite at the admission to the Adv. College of War.

French: Five years in Gymnasium, and two years in the Adv. College of War, one to three h.p.week.

3.

My French was fluent in all respects in 1940. Since that time I have had almost no opportunity to write or speak French - therefore I am out of practice.

In Finnish "adequate for travel" classification is conservative in view of the fact that Finnish and Estonian are almost identical in the everyday spoken form. On the basis of my prior experience in Finland ( 3-4 months ). I could improve to qualify to the next higher classification within a few months.

4.

Having used Russian, German, and Estonian in my military and engineering studies, I feel at ease in these languages as far as I have been able to keep up with the general development in these fields. Telecommunications was my major in the Military Academy.

*Aleks Kurgvel*  
Aleks Kurgvel  
January 1964

KURGVEL, Aleks

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Attachment to Section VI, subdivisions 1 and 2.

1. Continued,	Dates of Residence or Travel.	Knowledge acquired by			
		Resid.	Travel.	Study.	work assignm.
6. Sweden	1952 & 1959.	-	x	-	x
7. London, Engl.	1950	-	x	-	-
8. Riga, Latvia	1934-1944	-	x	-	-
9. France	1937	-	x	-	-
10. Bruxelles	1937	-	x	-	-
11. Switzerland	1937	-	x	-	-

2. Item 1: Assignments to different garrisons as division operation and signal officer prior to WW II. Participation in mil. exercises prior to WW II, and in mil. operations during WW II. Pleasure trips and leaves during peace time.
- " 2: Evacuation from Kuressaare to St. Petrograd in 1915, ~~1914~~. Participation in mil. intelligence operations during WW II in Leningrad and Pskov areas, and between the Ladoga and Onega lakes.
- " 3, also 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11: A pleasure trip of one month's duration, by bus, in 1937, to Western Europe, with one week stay in Paris.
- " 3: 1940-41: Residence and work in Berlin, with I.G. FARBEIN Industries. One month in Aich, Sudetenland, to relax after the escape from Estonia. Trips from Berlin to different Resettlement Camps for recruitment purposes.
- " 3: 1944-45: In connection with mil. intelligence work, in different places of North-Eastern part of Germany, with longer stays at Balga, E. Prussia, and at Nienhagen, near Rostock. Many visits to Kuehlungsborn where my family lived at that time.
- " 3: 1946-53: Residence and work at Displaced Persons' Camps: OXFORD near Dragahn, KUNGLA at Stolzenau/Weser, ESSEX near Langen, and U.S. Resettlement Center at Wentorf, and after that at Munich, working for the present employer.
- " 4: 1930: An official visit of the Estonian Advanced College of War to the Finnish equivalent.  
1941: 3 to 4 months in Helsinki and the surroundings, and shorter stays later, up to 1944, in Helsinki, in North-Finland, and at the Finnish-Soviet front between the Ladoga and Onega lakes, all in connection with mil.
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Attachment to Section VI, subdivision 1 & 2.

2. Continued.

intelligence work.

Item 5: TDY in Amman. Pleasure trips to Jerusalem and different other places in Jordan.

- " 6, 1952: Two TDY trips, both of 2 to 3 weeks, to Stockholm, Goeteborg, and a few other places. In 1959 a visit to my friends and relatives in Stockholm and Goeteborg.
- " 7: One week of talks with the British Mil. Intelligence authorities, with plenty of time to get acquainted with the City of London.
- " 8: Occasional duty travel.

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January 1964.

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PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Attachment to Section VII, subdivision 8.

Published materials.

- a) "In Armed Forces Headquarters on 21 July".  
An eyewitness report of the events during the Communist takeover in Tallinn in 1940. published 1956 in Stockholm, in the series "Estonian State and People in WW II", Volume III, pages 32-37; in Estonian.
- b) Articles in the Estonian military weekly "Sõdur" (The Soldier), in Tallinn, prior to 1939, on the subjects of Signal Tactics, and The German Autostrade.

Most of my writings treated classified subjects and were not published. Some of them are listed below:

- c) The thesis for "K.S. Diplom" degree, already mentioned in Section IV, subdivision 5.
- d) "Secret Expansion of German Armed Forces", a military intelligence research study, started in 1936 and continued up to 1939. Two issues (1937 and 1938), in German language. Tallinn, H.Q. Estonian Armed Forces.
- e) The "Leather-, Surrogate-, and Shoe-Industry of the Soviet Union". An industrial intelligence research made in I.G. FARBEN INDUSTRIES in Berlin in 1940/41 on a request of the German military authorities.
- f) "The Situation in Estonia", April 1943, 27 pages, and an addition to this, dated February 1944, 12 pages, both in German language, the first one written in Tallinn, the second one in Helsinki. Both were presented to the German and Finnish military authorities. The errors of the German politics in Estonia were exposed, and the restoration of independence of Estonia advocated.
- g) "Characteristics of Communists' Annihilating Politics and Our Counter Steps", an essay written in February 1948, and sent from W. Germany to the American authorities.
- h) A number of study- and research-reports and proposals filed with my present employer since 1951.

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January 1964.

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PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Attachment to Section VII, subdivision 10.

Public Speaking and Public Relations Experiences.

1. Acquired during the period 1934 - 1940, when working in J2, Estonian Armed Forces on simultaneously held jobs of:
  - a) Information Officer, later Chief of Section A (Information), in charge of liaison to the foreign Mil. Attaches, and in contact with the foreign mil. dignitaries visiting Estonia,
  - b) Military Press Officer (1935-1939),
  - c) Deputy J 2, in charge of liaison between the Estonian Joint Staff and the Soviet military bases in Estonia (1939-1940).
2. As Estonian Chief Liaison Officer to the German C-in-C, Army Group "Narva" in Estonia, 1944, when defending Estonian unit commanders against the German intermediate Headquarters, and the German Liaison Officers.
3. As Chairman or Vice Chairman of Estonian National Camp Committees, and as chief of Camp Administrative Offices in Displaced persons' Camps, 1946-49, when:
  - a) dealing with different national groups in camps and in the neighborhood of the camps,
  - b) dealing with the German authorities and neighbors of the camps,
  - c) dealing with the authorities of: UNRRA or IRO; the British Mil. Government, and Immigration- and Employment agents of different states,
  - d) delivering speeches on different occasions.
4. As lecturer, chief of training, or faculty co-ordinator on different courses during the periods of:
  - a) 1926-29, and 1932-39 in the Estonian Army, including lecturing in mil. techniques and tactics in the Technical University of Tallinn (1938/39) and on courses of Signal Officers, all additionally to my main job,
  - b) 1941-44, when with the German and the Finnish mil. intelligence units, nurturing national motivation of Estonian and Russian agent-trainees, on recruitment trips in Germany,
  - c) 1953-59 on different assignments with my present employer.

*Aleks Kurgvel*  
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January 1964

KURGVEL, Aleks

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

Attachment to Section X, subdivision 2, and also to Section IX/9.  
and " 11.

Military Service.

1. Estonian Armed Forces ( 1923 - 1940 ).

- 1923 - 1926: Military Academy, Technical Branch, Tallinn.  
Promoted to Junior Lieutenant with seniority  
from 24 Feb. 1924.
- 1926 - 1929: Signal Battalion, in the beginning in Tallinn,  
later detached to H.Q. 2nd Inf.Div. in Tartu (1926),  
and H.Q. 1-st Inf.Div. in Narva (1927-29), as Division  
Signal Officer.
- 1929 - 1932: Advanced College of war, in Tallinn. Student, and  
Courses for Intelligence Officers - student and  
lecturer concurrently.
- 1932 - 1933: Division "Operations", (J3) Eston. Armed Forces, in  
Tallinn. In charge of Communications in general  
planning of operations, and in planning of Air  
Defense.
- 1933 - 1934: Deputy Chief of Operations, H.Q. 1-st Inf.Div. in  
Rakvere.
- 1934 - 1940: Information Officer, later  
Chief of Mil. Information and Liaison Section,  
J2, Estonian Armed Forces, concurrently Deputy J 2.
- 03/04 Jul'40: I discontinued my military service in Estonia, and  
fled to Germany.

Section IX/9, an explanation to the above statement.

On 24 June, 1940, the Soviets, practically already  
masters in Estonia, asked me to work for them as a clandestine  
agent. I refused, and did not "reconsider" although they "ad-  
vised" me, under threat, to do this. On 3 July the Soviets orde-  
red my removal from J2. In those circumstances this order was  
practically an equivalent of a death sentence. Therefore, and  
with the knowledge of J2, I left the country clandestinely,  
with the intention to continue to fight the Communists from  
abroad. When my escape was discovered then I was discharged,  
in absentia, from the military service "in State interests",  
as I learned later from an old Estonian newspaper.

I do NOT consider this being a dishonorable dis-  
charge: these dischargers were enemies of Estonia, who were  
destroying the country, against whom I had to protect Estonia.

I mentioned this incident just for the completeness  
of this personal history statement.

MR

KURGVEL, Aleks

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Attachment to Section X, Military Service, continued.

2. with German Armed Forces (June 1941\*- July 1946 ).
- 1941 - Aug '44: "KOF", in Finland and in Estonia, later "FAK 102" in Estonia, in both units as Signal Officer, Clandestine Communications, and in charge of agent training.  
My status: Captain, Estonian volunteer in the Finnish Army, detached to German units for joint operations.
- Aug - Sep '44: After I requested and received discharge from the Finnish Army, I was made Estonian Liaison Officer to German C-in-C, Army Group NARVA, in Eastern part of Estonia.
- Sep '44-May '45: "FAK 166(K)", at German East Front, in North-East Germany. In charge of training of Estonian agents, and of their sending to Estonia, for future work after the collapse of German forces.
- 04 May 1945: I went through the German-British front line (with my German commander's knowledge), and reported to the British Military Intelligence authorities in Hamburg.
- May '45-Jul '46: Detained by the British, for interrogation.
- Jul-Aug 1946: In a British Mil.Int. safehouse, in Germany.
- 09 Aug 1946: Allowed to join my family in DP Camp OXFORD.
- 15 Nov 1946: Officially discharged from German "Navy" by the British "25 Disbandment Control Unit".

\*NOTE: I reported to the German Mil.Intelligence authorities as soon as I arrived in Berlin, in July 1940. They introduced me to I.G.FARBEN. Between my work at I.G.Farben, I canvassed the Resettlers' Camps in Germany for agent-recruits for the Mil.Intelligence. Thus, the start of my co-operation with the German Military Intelligence Service could be taken for July 1940.

Subdivision 11.

Description of my past military duties.

1. Communications and liaison between military personnel of different nationalities, public relations.
2. Military intelligence research work.
3. Military-political propaganda.
4. Planning of conventional, and special, and clandestine operations.
5. Composition of different memory ciphers. Their use.
6. Planning and supervision of cland.radio communications.

*Aleks Kurgvell*  
January 1964.